

Staffordshire Hoard Student Placements

Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery and Stoke Potteries Museum are seeking expressions of interest for student placements to contribute to the conservation of the Staffordshire Hoard.

The Hoard

The Staffordshire Hoard represents the most significant archaeological find ever uncovered in the West Midlands region. Since the public disclosure of the find in September 2009 there has been an unprecedented level of public and media interest in the Hoard. There is also the academic communities who have specific and significant expectations in relation to establishing a research agenda around the Hoard. Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery and the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent are the Acquiring Partners and understand the need to address the varied agendas and expectations that have arisen since the discovery and acquisition of the Hoard.

The first and most important step is to conserve the Hoard so that it is materially stable thereby allowing the effective investigation of the material by scientists, archaeologists and historians. This call is part of the Acquiring Partners strategy to meet their responsibilities and ensure that the democratic and open approach that has typified the handling of this most important of finds is maintained throughout the process of conservation.

What is in the Hoard?

Following initial assessment the Hoard was found to contain 97 sword pommels (25% of the sword pommels are of a cloisonné design with 60% constructed from fine filigree), 354 sword and dagger hilt fittings, 9 pyramids, 4 pommel rings, 2 buttons and a large amount of fragments. The Hoard totals 5.094 kilos of gold, 1.442 kilos of silver including approximately 3,500 cloisonné garnets (51 loose) and a large number of fragments some of which are consistent with those found on helmets of this period. In total the Hoard contains 3,490 pieces/fragments and has no comparator in terms of content and quantity in the UK or mainland Europe.

Student Placement

- The Hoard conservation project is able to offer 12 weeks of placement time a year, for two years. The placement time span can be from 2 weeks up to 1 month.
- The work will encompass practical conservation as well as written and photographic documentation and of the hoard.
- The conservation work will be based in Birmingham but conservation work will also be scheduled to take place in Stoke.
- An aim of the project is to engage with the public and participants may be asked to contribute to ongoing public engagement activity.

Time Scale

- The conservation project has funding for two years and it is hoped that the conservation team will be in place by September 2010. Student placements will be scheduled from October 2010 onwards.

Funding

- At present there is no funding for the student placements. It is hoped that money will be raised to help to fund the placements but it would be advisable to apply with funding in place.

Filming

- National Geographic are producing three programmes on the Hoard, the second programme is on the conservation and research of the Hoard. All placements are expected to participate to the programmes if requested to do so..

Application

If you are interested in participating in a placement please submit a maximum of two sides of A4 (on the form provided) containing your contact details, conservation experience, why you would like to participate and what you will bring to the project.

Please indicate how long a placement you would like and if you have funding in place.

Please give some indication of when you would like the placement

Please attach one reference with the application

The Deadline: 30th of July 2010, February 2011 , July 2011, February 2012

Selection

Dependant on the quantity of applicants you may be asked to visit Birmingham or have a conversation by phone to help with the selection process.

The successful applicants will be selected by the Head of Conservation in Birmingham and the Hoard Conservation Project Leader and will be informed one month after the deadline.

Please submit your application to:

Deborah Cane
Hoard Conservation Project Leader
Deborah_Cane@birmingham.gov.uk

Staffordshire Hoard Conservation Project

Student Placement Application Form

The application should be no longer than two sides of A4

Name	
Contact details	
Conservation Experience	
Why you would like to participate	
What you can bring to the project	
What you hope to gain from the project	
Length of placement	
Preferred dates of placement	
Do you have funding in place	
Please return this form and one reference to	<p>Deborah Cane Staffordshire Hoard Conservation Project Collections Care & Conservation Department Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery Chamberlain Square Birmingham B3 3DH UK</p> <p>0121 303 9080</p>

